The two Ministers agreed to a number of technical level meetings on various subjects, including, expert level meetings on Conventional and Nuclear CBMs, *inter alia*, to discuss the draft agreement on advance notification of missile tests; meeting between railway authorities on the Munnabao-Khokhrapar rail link; meeting between Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers; meeting between Narcotics Control Authorities, including for finalisation of an MOU; meeting between the Indian Coast Guards and the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency to, *inter alia*, discuss the Memorandum of Understanding for establishing communication link between them; and meeting on all issues related to commencement of a bus service between Srinagar and Muzaffarabad.

They also agreed to the establishment of a Committee of Experts to consider issus related to trade; a Joint Survey of the boundary pillars in the horizontal segment of the international boundary in the Sir Creek area; addition of a new category of Tourist Visa in the visa regime between the two countries, and to promote group tourism; set up a mechanism to deal with the issue of civilian prisoners and fishermen, effectively and speedily; undertake further measures for facilitation of visits to religious shrines, and upkeep of historical sites; implement the outcome of the August, 2004 meeting of Defence Secretaries; and enhanced interaction and exchanges among the respective Foreign Offices, including study tours of young diplomats/probationers to each other's country.

They, *inter alia*, agreed to continue with the serious and sustained dialogue, and reiterated the confidence that the Composite Dialogue will lead to peaceful settlement of all bilateral issues to the satisfaction of both sides.

Keralite fishermen in Pak custody

739. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Kerala based fishermen detained in Pakistan;

(b) whether Government have initiated any steps for their release; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) As per available information, presently

about 700 Indian fishermen, including from Kerala, are in Pakistan's custody. Nationality of 266 of these fishermen, who were granted consular access in March, 2004, has been confirmed. Consular access for the others has been sought.

Government, through diplomatic channels, have been consistently taking up the matter of early release and repatriation of the Indian fishermen with Pakistan. The issue was also raised during the meeting between the Foreign Ministers of the two countries in New Delhi on September 5-6, 2004; and again during the recent visit of the Prime Minister of Pakistan to New Delhi on November 23-24, 2004.

Assistance to Iraq

740. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of aid in cash and kind so far provided by Government for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Iraq after the cessation of war between the Iraqi and coalition forces under US;

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to provide more assistance for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHMMED): (a) to (c) The Government has committed US $20 million for assistance to Iraqi people towards relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation. Out of this, US $ 1.18 million was spent on distribution of milk powder to Iraqi children. an eight-week training programme for Iraqi diplomats was organized in New Delhi at the Foreign Service Institute. Another training programme for Iraqi officials in Information Technology was conducted at the National Institute of Information Technology. 125 slots for training in India are made available to Iraq per annum under the ITEC programme of the Government. Further, 50 scholarships for higher education are made available to Iraqis every year. The Government plans to run a pediatric and maternity hospital in Najaf and to train Iraqi officials in upstream and downstream units in oil sector.

Further, the Government has committed an additional amount of US $ 10 million to the two Iraqi Trust Funds to be administered under the aegis